

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-07

ARA-06 /102 W

-----210815Z 020807 /17

R 210720Z MAR 77

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4165

INFO CINCPAC

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CG, UR, CH

SUBJECT: CHINA DENOUNCES INVASION OF ZAIRE

1. ILLUSTRATING STRIKINGLY PARALLEL STRATEGIC CONCERNS WITH THE U.S. IN AFRICA, CHINA HAS ROUNDLY CONDEMNED THE CURRENT INVASION OF ZAIRE AS A "PREMEDIATED AND PLANNED AGGRESSION ENGINEERED BY THE SOVIET SOCIAL-IMPERIALISTS" AND EXPRESSED FIRM SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE'S ARMED FORCES AND PEOPLE IN THEIR RESISTANCE TO FOREIGN AGGRESSION. BOTH THE OFFICIAL "PEOPLE'S DAILY" AND NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY (NCNA) MARCH 19 DENOUNCED THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SOVIETS AND THEIR "HIRED MERCENARY TROOPS" FOR THE INVASION OF ZAIRE. THE COMMENTATOR ARTICLE IN "PEOPLE'S DAILY" CLAIMED THAT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT MOBUTU, THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES HAVE BEEN "COUNTER-ATTACKING HEROICALLY," AND A SUBSEQUENT NCNA PIECE REPORTED THAT THE ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES HAD RETAKEN KASAJI FROM THE MERCENARIES.

2. BOTH COMMENTARIES TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT THAT THE INVASION OF ZAIRE IS PART OF A STRATEGIC SOVIET DESIGN, "ANOTHER ANGOLA-TYPE INCIDENT," TO SPREAD SOVIET CONTROL THROUGHOUT AFRICA. THE NCNA COMMENTARY LINKED THE INVASION OF ZAIRE TO THE FORTHCOMING AFRICAN TRIP OF SOVIET PRESIDENT PODGORNYY, SEEING BOTH AS PART OF A SOVIET PLAN TO "STEP UP ITS EXPANSION IN CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA" AND "ENSLAVE THE AFRICAN PEOPLE."

3. COMMENT: THERE IS LITTLE THE CHINESE CAN DO IN THIS SITUATION OTHER THAN PROVIDE PROPAGANDA SUPPORT FOR ZAIRE AND HOPE THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AIDS MOBUTU IN BLUNTING THE CURRENT INVASION. THE PLIGHT OF ZAIRE, SEEN AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF PODGORNYY'S UPCOMING TRIP AND CASTRO'S CURRENT AFRICAN TOUR, HIGHLIGHTS THE PROBLEMS THE SOVIETS ARE CAUSING THE CHINESE IN AFRICA. THE ONE COUNTRY TO BE VISITED BY BOTH PODGORNYY AND CASTRO IS TANZANIA, CO-RECIPIENT OF CHINA'S LARGEST ASSISTANCE PROJECT IN AFRICA, THE TANZAM RAILROAD.
CROSS

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, CG, UR, CH
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